

MEDIA RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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NATIONAL BOOK WEEK 2017

08 – 10 September 2017 mark the National Book Week, to support and encourage learning society; the University of South African (UNISA) launched the following new books through Unisa Press division.

1. Title: “The Road to Democracy Soweto Uprisings: New Perspective, Commemorations and Memorialisation”, Volume 7. - Author: Sifiso Ndlovu is the writer but also a student at the riots- 1st hand experience, map of the route the students took, artistic analysis.

Soweto Uprisings: New Perspective, Commemorations and Memorialisation, this special volume on the 40th anniversary of the Soweto uprising is largely based on the collective memories, eye witness accounts, oral history testimonies and views of veterans of the Soweto uprisings struggle. Furthermore, the voices of both the authorities and police are also included. We have used this methodology because we believe that the voices and/or experiences of activists, participants and observers who provide eye-witness accounts come closer to the “truth” than history books that jettison or ignores their voices, however skillfully written. If this makes for a degree of partisanship, we acknowledge our guilt. We are sure our readers will learn more from the voices and sometimes halting memories of students, parents and authorities, including police, than anything written about them. We augmented personal accounts and oral history testimonies by using archival material.

2. Title: “Researching Power and Identity in African State Formation: Comparative Perspectives” – Author: Martin Doornbos & Wim van Binsbergen.

The book talk about how, historically, the dynamics of power and identity interact in the African context, generating the kind of political structures and collective actions that have often appeared characteristic for the continent. It examines some salient dimensions of the broader frameworks of hegemony and power imposed upon African societies in the context of larger geopolitical and historical processes. Power and identity are two key concepts which can be applied in describing African realities. The interaction and connections between the two



concepts are, moreover, of key importance in the African context, as their studies demonstrate.

In common with other scholars in this area of study, the authors acknowledge that underlying their work is a compelling fascination with the continent's evolving social and cultural forms. Their insight into African social reality reflects a fragile and fragmented continent capable of bringing forth a great variety of agents and actors in the interplay of social and political power: power vested in a variety of groups, ethnicities, religions or classes, with potential to impose on the identity of others.

3. Title: "Multilingual Education for Africa: Concepts and Practices" – Author: Russell H. Kaschula and H. Ekkehard Wolff.

The common thread in this book is the exploration of innovative pedagogies in language teaching and language use in education. The greatest danger facing educators is one of complacency. Whether set in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, South Africa or elsewhere in Africa, all the chapters in this book emphasise the imperative for educators to constantly revise curricula and teaching methods in order to find the most appropriate ways of teaching and using language in multilingual settings. The chapters in this book place the mother tongue at the centre of learning, while developing the use of exoglossic languages such as English. The book will be of interest to educators at all levels of the education system. Comprising of 17 chapters, the book is divided into three parts, which addresses the multilingual context of education in Africa, the teaching of additional language in schools, and additional language tuition in higher education.

Those interested in comparative education models, language teaching, and language use in multilingual contexts of all cycles of education, will find this book useful. Dedicated to the memory of Neville Alexander, the book opens with a tribute to this South African who was directly engaged in advocacy around issues of language, multilingualism and literacy.

4. Title: "*Thomas Mafolo CHAKA Die nuwe*" – Author: Prof Chris Swanepoel.

The book is translated from Sesotho to Afrikaans.

In Chaka word die geboorte, opgang en val van die historiese Shaka slegs as vertrekpunt gebruik. Die werk vertoon konneksies met verskeie mondelinge en literêre genres soos die volksverhaal, legende, fabel, sage, fantasie en selfs mite. Daar is ook allegoriese kenmerke. Sy stilistiese grootsheid, poëtiese prosa, historiese basis met vermenging van fiktiewe elemente en karakters, die idealisering van Shaka se krygsvernuf, die heroïsering, is kenmerke wat die werk waarskynlik op die vlak van 'n literêre epos plaas.

Chaka se oorwinning oor die onregverdige behandeling wat hom in sy jeug te beurt geval het – gedeeltelik as gevolg van sy buite-egtelike verwekking – en sy vordering tot magtige heerser oor die grootste gedeelte van Suider-Afrika, word in die roman aangebied as 'n direkte gevolg van die intervensie van bonatuurlike



magte wat hom dapper en bloeddorstig gemaak het: eers deur die vrouedokter van Bungane en daarna deur die invloedryke tradisionele geestelike Isanusi en sy kornuite Malunga en Ndlebe – wat almal briljant gekarakteriseer word.

Chaka eindig met die AmaZulu wat nadink oor die tragedie wat hulle leier te beurt geval het en sê: “Di a bela, di a hlweba! Madiba ho pjha a maholo!” (Dit kook en skif! Selfs die groot ryke kom tot 'n val!).

5. Title: “*The Haarlem Shipwreck*” (1647): The Origins of Cape Town – Author: Dr Bruno Werz E.J.S

The book talks about Haarlem Shipwreck (1647) exploring the story around one of the earliest recorded maritime accidents in Table Bay. In this gripping investigation, based on detailed archival research, Bruno Werz chronicles the demise of the ship, and the sojourn of 62 of its survivors on the shores of the bay. These events, seemingly inauspicious, led to the establishment five years later of the Dutch East India Company refreshment station along the trade route, and from these pragmatic arrangements grew the settlement of Cape Town, to become the ‘Mother City’ of the present-day multiracial and multicultural society of South Africa.

This superbly researched book promises to be a source publication with a difference. Readers view transcriptions in 17th-century Dutch of original VOC manuscripts (with translations): such as the survivors muster roll, and letters dispatched with a visiting English ship, the Sun. The prize document of the collection is the hitherto unpublished journal kept by junior merchant Leendert Jansz while stranded on the shores of Table Bay, freshly capturing impressions of the people and surroundings untrammelled by the long telescope of our subsequent experience of history.

Dr Bruno Werz, FSA, is a leading authority on maritime archaeology and history. His projects include underwater excavations of the VOC ships Oosterland and Waddinxveen (1697) in Table Bay, an extensive survey of sunken ships around Robben Island, and the excavation of sub-Saharan Africa’s earliest shipwreck near Oranjemund, Namibia. He is the discoverer of the world’s oldest artefacts from under the sea. Werz has lectured and published widely and is a member of the Royal Society of South Africa and other professional organisations. He was elected a Fellow of the prestigious Society of Antiquaries of London in recognition of his achievements. Werz is currently research co-operator for the Department of Historical and Heritage Studies of the University of Pretoria and Chief Executive Officer of the African Institute for Marine and Underwater Research, Exploration and Education (AIMURE; website: <http://www.aimure.org>).

6. Title: “*Philosophy in world cultures*”: reconstructive insights into aspects of indigenous Shona philosophical thought. – Author: Pascah Mungwini

Some of the most provocative questions confronted by philosophers in Africa are grounded in historical memory. The book is a critical reconstruction of indigenous



Shona philosophy as an aspect of the African intellectual heritage. It aims to retrace the epistemic thread in the indigenous traditions of the Shona and to lay out the philosophy imbued in them. In this book the author argues that philosophy in Africa has a historical responsibility to help drive the unfinished humanistic project of decolonisation and to reclaim the African past in search of identity and authentic liberation. That entails, as the author points out, opening up those indigenous horizons of thinking and knowing that have been held hostage by colonial modernity and which now face potential extinction. On this basis African philosophy will be able not only to set itself on the path to total self-affirmation, but also to repair the colonial wound and deal with various forms of epistemic injustices that afflict the continent. This book is one of the first comprehensive texts to be written on the philosophical thinking of the indigenous Shona – that group of people credited with the founding of the ancient Great Zimbabwe civilisation and for constructing the Great Zimbabwe UNESCO world heritage monuments. The book aims to contribute to the dissemination of the thoughts of the Shona, whose culture and philosophical ideas have not been sufficiently explored, but which continue to influence the lives of its peoples to this day. By reconstructing the philosophy of one of Africa's indigenous cultures, the author not only lays down the basis for dialogue across cultures, but he also opens the opportunity for scholars in Africa to dialogue with their past, critically analyse it and, where possible, appropriate its ideals to improve humanity

7. Title: “*Reincarnation*” – Author: Dr Hasskei Mohammed MAJEED

If it is said that a ‘person’, or, as is sometimes suggested, an aspect of a person survives death, then what will this aspect be? What exactly is that which reincarnates? If it is a soul (or a nonphysical entity) that reincarnates, why should it (the soul) be said to constitute a person at all? Besides, what or who is a person? Is it even true that a person is not completely material? If a person is both physical and spiritual, then what is the relation between the two?

8. Title: “*Philip Quaque’s Letters to London, 1763-1811*” – Author: Prof. Adélékè ADÉÈKÓ

The authors see a single, unified, fully Christianized subject speaking to the rest of the world. My introduction places heavy emphasis on the literary, specifically epistolary, context of Quaque’s reports. The author in the letters illustrates a man, first an African and then the Christian that experiences internal conflict and is caught between being a priest and an African.

END!

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